Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CCO-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSC-05

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USUN NEW YORK 1703

CONFIDENTIAL JERUSALEM 2037

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PBMN, IS, JO

SUBJ: CONTINUEDPRO-PLO DEMONSTRATIONS ON WEST BANK

AND IN EAST JERUSALEM

REF: JERUSALEM 2034

1. DEMONSTRATIONS OF SUPPORT FOR PLO CONTINUED FOR THE FIFTH CONSECUTIVE DAY TODAY (NOV 20) AS BUSINESSES AND SCHOOLS IN RAMALLAH DECLARED A GENERAL STRIKE. GOI AUTHORITIES, FACED WITH STRIKE, IMPOSED CURFEW SHORTLY AFTERWARD. SITUATION IN RAMALLAH AS OF THIS REPORT IS SAID TO BE CALM BUT TENSE. (WE HAVE NO REPORT AS YET OF DEMONSTRATIONS IN OTHER PARTS OF WEST BANK TODAY, THOUGH ISRAELIS ARE CONCENTRATING HEAVY SECURITY FORCES IN EAST JERUSALEM) YESTERDAY (NOV 19) STUDENTS OF RAMALLAH ATTEMPTED TO MOUNT DEMONSTRATION, BUT WERE QUICKLY DISPERSED BY POLICE AND SOLDIERS.

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2. IN OTHER PARTS OF WEST BANK AND EAST JERUSALEM, ON NOV 19, HIGH

SCHOOL STUDENTS MOUNTED DEMONSTRATIONS FOR SUPPORT OF THE PLO. IN EAST JERUSALEM (DESPITE SUPERFICIAL DOWNTOWN CALM REPORTED REFTEL). VIOLENT CLASHES WERE REPORTED BETWEEN STUDENTS OF MAAMOUNIYA GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL AND GOI SECURITY FORCES. PRESS REPORTS INDICATE STREET WHERE SCHOOL LOCATED TURNED INTO BATTLEGROUND AS GIRLS CLASHED WITH CLUB-WILLDING, STEEL-HELMETED POLICE AND SOLDIERS EMPLOYING WATER CANNON.

3. FIRST DEMONSTRATION WITHIN WALLS OF OLD CITY ALSO ERUPTED NOV 19, AS STUDENTS FROM FRERES HIGH SCHOOL WERE CONFRONTED BY POLICE AND SOLDIERS. ACCORDING TO ASSISTANCT DIRECTOR OF SCHOOL, FOUR STUDENTS WERE HOSPTIALIZED. HE CALIMS NONE OF FRERES STUDENTS LEFT SCHOOL PREMISES AS STUDENTS FROM OTHER SCHOOLS URGED THEM TO JOIN DEMONSTRATION. AS POLICE ARRIVED, OTHER STUDENTS FLED AND SECURITY FORCES THEN ENTERED FRERES SCHOOL AND ATTACKED STUDENTS IN CLASSROOMS. SCHOOL AUTHORITIES HAVE CLOSED DOWN THE INSITITUTION UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

4. IN BETHLEHEM AND BEIT SAHUR TOTAL OF 151 STUDENTS WERE ARRESTED ON NOV 19 DURING VIOLENT CLASHES WITH POLICE AND SOLDIERS. DEPUTY MAYOR HANNA NASIR INFOMRED US THAT SEVERAL SOUDENTS WERE INJURED IN BLOODY CONFRONTATIONS. NASIR CLAIMS GOI AUTHORITIES PLACING FINES OF UP TO IL 2,000 ON DETAINED STUDENTS. HE STATES PARENTS ARE REFUSING TO PAY WHAT HE CALLED EXORBITANT FINES. BETHLEHEM, AS OF THIS REPORT, CALM TODAY.

5. COMMENT: CONTINUING WEST BANK AND EAST JERUSALEM DEMONSTRATIONS IN SUPPORT OF PLO CAN BE ATTRIBUTED PARTIALLY TO GENERALLY INFECTIOUS NATURE OF STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS CONFRONTED WITH HARSH, VIOLENT SUPPRESSION BY GOI AUTHORITIES. AS MORE STUDENTS BECOME INVOLVED, ARRESTED, INJURED OR KILLED, GENERAL ARAB RESISTANCE TENDS TO GROW. REFQVGL OF BETHLEHEM PARENTS TO PAY HIGH FINES, FOR EXAMPLE, COULD TRIGGER NEW AND PROLONGED CONFRONTATION WITH AUTHORITIES. DEPUTY MAYOR OF BETHLEHEM AND EDITOR OF ARABIC DAILY EL QUDS HAVE BOTH TOLD US THEY BELIEVE DEMONSTRATIONS WILL CONTINUE FOR TIME BEING. WE ARE INCLINED TO AGREE, THOUGH DO NOT FORESEE ANY GENERAL BREAKDOWN OF ISRAELI CONTROL AS SOME HAVE PREDICTED (RECENT DREW MIDDLETON ARTICLE IN PARIS TRIBUNE. E. EBG.)

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